

House Concurrent Resolution No. 30

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES HAMPTON (Sponsor), HODGES, WRIGHT, REDMON,
SWINGER, HOSKINS, CROSS AND CRAWFORD (Co-sponsors).

4445L.02I

WHEREAS, over the course of the Spring and Summer of 2011, unprecedented releases of water upstream by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have caused extensive pressure on the river levees in the state of Missouri that protect many communities, businesses, and prime agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, in the face of this tremendous pressure some of Missouri's levees have been intentionally and unintentionally breached, resulting in widespread flooding, which has proved devastating to many Missouri homes, farms, families, and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, last summer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intentionally breached the Birds Point levee in southeast Missouri which resulted in the flooding of 130,000 acres of mostly agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, Missouri families have suffered unprecedented losses as a result of this situation and many Missouri farmers have experienced a complete and total loss of agricultural production, resulting in decimated farm incomes and ravaged local economies; and

WHEREAS, according to a June 2011 report drafted by the Food and Agriculture Policy Research Institute of the University of Missouri, the breach of the levee and subsequent flooding of crop lands in Southeast Missouri has resulted in economic losses totaling \$60.6 million, a combination of forgone net returns and incurred production expenses in the affected area; and

WHEREAS, according to the University of Missouri Extension, the southeast Missouri region produced the following shares of the state's total production of specific agricultural commodities in 2010:

- 1) 100% of total cotton production in Missouri;
- 2) 99.6% of total rice production in Missouri;
- 3) 52.9% of total wheat production in Missouri;
- 4) 21.4% of total grain sorghum production in Missouri;

35 5) 18.1% of total soybean production in Missouri;

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37 6) 15.4% of total corn production in Missouri; and

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39 **WHEREAS**, with the agricultural production of southeast Missouri accounting for
40 approximately one-third of the state's total economy, the catastrophic results of the flooding of
41 agricultural land due to the intentional breach of the Birds Point levee in southeast Missouri has
42 a significant economic impact for the entire state. This complete and total loss of agricultural
43 production at a time when our state's economy is experiencing recession can only exacerbate the
44 state's current economic hardships; and

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46 **WHEREAS**, the flood waters have not yet receded in some parts of Missouri and
47 continue to disrupt the lives of hard-working Missourians; and

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49 **WHEREAS**, even after the flood waters recede, much work will need to be done to
50 restore the productivity of the damaged agricultural land and repair the ruined homes and
51 businesses; and

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53 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is charged with management of the
54 nation's rivers and flood control is one of the primary purposes for which the rivers are to be
55 managed; and

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57 **WHEREAS**, the original flood plan was authorized in 1928 in response to severe
58 flooding of the Mississippi River in 1927. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is obligated to re-
59 examine the flood plan in light of the devastating losses, both short-term and long-term, suffered
60 in this state as a result of the unprecedented releases of water upstream and the intentional breach
61 of the Birds Point levee by the U.S. Army Corps of engineers during the Spring and Summer of
62 2011;

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64 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
65 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
66 concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to:

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68 1) Re-examine the flood plan for the Missouri and Mississippi rivers; and

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70 2) Manage the rivers in such a way as to avoid the devastating flooding disasters that
71 have occurred this year; and

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73 3) Rebuild the damaged levees to at least their previous heights as expediently as
74 possible; and

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76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri General Assembly
77 encourage communities, families and other stakeholders to work together to restore the prime

78 agricultural lands that have been damaged by the recent flooding so that the productive value of
79 these lands is not irrevocably lost; and

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81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Missouri General Assembly
82 strongly encourage the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to actively support
83 policies for the management of the Missouri River that mimic natural river level rises and falls
84 and that minimize devastating flood events such as those that have been experienced by so many
85 Missourians this summer; and

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87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
88 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
89 Secretary of the U.S. Army and the members of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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